

# AISSEE Social Studies

## Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 30 Minutes

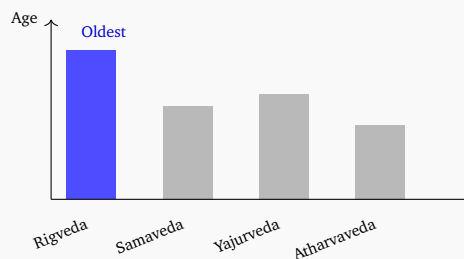
Maximum Marks: 50

### Instructions

- This paper has **25 questions** carrying **2 marks** each. Total: **50 marks**.
- All questions are MCQs with four options (A/B/C/D). Choose the single correct answer.
- **No negative marking**. Wrong or blank answers carry zero marks.
- Attempt all questions. Do not leave any answer blank.

### Section A: Indian History

Q1. Which is the oldest of the four Vedas?



- (A) Yajurveda
- (B) Samaveda
- (C) Rigveda
- (D) Atharvaveda

Answer: (C)

### Solution

The Rigveda is the oldest of the four Vedas, composed roughly between 1500 and 1200 BCE. It contains 1,028 hymns (suktas) addressed to various deities and is a foundational text of the Vedic religion.



**Q2.** The Sangam literature, produced in ancient South India, belongs to which language tradition and approximately which period?

- (A) Sanskrit, 500–100 BCE
- (B) Pali, 200 BCE–200 CE
- (C) Prakrit, 100 BCE–300 CE
- (D) Tamil, 300 BCE–300 CE

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

Sangam literature refers to the body of classical Tamil poetry and prose compiled during three Sangam (literary academies) gatherings, spanning roughly 300 BCE to 300 CE. It is one of the oldest surviving literary traditions in India and provides vivid accounts of early South Indian society, polity, and culture.

**Q3.** Emperor Akbar maintained a brilliant court of nine extraordinary scholars and artists known as the “Navratnas” (Nine Gems). Which of the following was one of Akbar’s Navratnas?

- (A) Chanakya
- (B) Surdas
- (C) Tansen
- (D) Kabir

**Answer: (C)**

### Solution

Tansen, the legendary musician, was one of Akbar’s nine gems (Navratnas). Other Navratnas included Birbal, Todar Mal, Raja Man Singh, Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana, Faizi, Abul Fazl, Fakir Aziao-Din, and Mulla Do Piazza. Chanakya belonged to the Mauryan era; Surdas and Kabir were bhakti poets independent of Akbar’s court.



**Q4.** Aurangzeb's prolonged Deccan campaigns (1681–1707) are considered a major cause of the decline of the Mughal Empire because they:

- (A) Greatly increased Mughal revenue from peninsular trade
- (B) Led to the complete conquest of all South Indian kingdoms
- (C) Resulted in a lasting peace treaty with the Marathas
- (D) Drained the imperial treasury and overstretched the Mughal army

**Answer:** (D)

### Solution

Aurangzeb spent the last 26 years of his reign fighting the Marathas and the Deccan sultanates. This prolonged warfare exhausted the empire's finances, weakened its military, and allowed regional powers to grow stronger. After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Mughal Empire rapidly fragmented.

**Q5.** The nationalist trio called “Lal-Bal-Pal” inspired a new assertive phase of the Indian independence movement. Who represented “Lal” in this trio?

- (A) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (C) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

“Lal-Bal-Pal” stood for Lala Lajpat Rai (Lal), Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Bal), and Bipin Chandra Pal (Pal). Lala Lajpat Rai was a key leader from Punjab who championed Swadeshi and self-rule. He was also known as “Punjab Kesari” (Lion of Punjab) and died after being lathi-charged during protests against the Simon Commission in 1928.



**Q6.** Annie Besant founded the Indian Home Rule League in 1916 and became the first woman to serve as President of the Indian National Congress. In which year did she preside over the INC as its President?

- (A) 1905
- (B) 1917
- (C) 1920
- (D) 1930

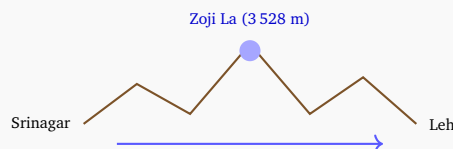
**Answer: (B)**

### Solution

Annie Besant, an Irish theosophist and social reformer who adopted India as her home, was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1917 – making her the first woman to hold that post. She launched the Home Rule League (modelled on the Irish Home Rule movement) in 1916 to demand self-governance for India within the British Empire.

## Section B: Indian Geography

**Q7.** Zoji La is a high-altitude mountain pass that serves as an important link in the Himalayas. Which two cities does it connect?



- (A) Srinagar and Leh
- (B) Manali and Leh
- (C) Shimla and Spiti
- (D) Jammu and Srinagar

**Answer: (A)**



**Solution**

Zoji La pass (altitude 3,528 m) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir connects Srinagar (Kashmir Valley) to Leh (Ladakh). It lies on National Highway 1 and is the main gateway between Kashmir and Ladakh, remaining closed during heavy winter snowfall.

**Q8.** The river Indus, one of the longest rivers in Asia, originates near which lake or region in Tibet?

- (A) Dal Lake in Kashmir
- (B) Lake Mansarovar in Tibet
- (C) Loktak Lake in Manipur
- (D) Wular Lake in Kashmir

**Answer: (B)**

**Solution**

The Indus (Sindhu) river originates near Lake Mansarovar in the Tibetan plateau, close to Mount Kailash. It flows northwest through Ladakh and then into Pakistan. The Indus gave its name to the Indian subcontinent and to the Indus Valley Civilisation.

**Q9.** Which city is the capital of the north-eastern Indian state of Meghalaya?

- (A) Kohima
- (B) Imphal
- (C) Aizawl
- (D) Shillong

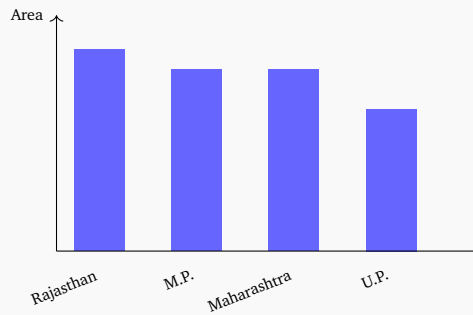
**Answer: (D)**

**Solution**

Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya. Known as the “Scotland of the East” for its rolling hills and pleasant climate, it was also the capital of undivided Assam before Meghalaya was carved out as a separate state in 1972. Kohima is the capital of Nagaland; Imphal of Manipur; Aizawl of Mizoram.



**Q10.** Which is the largest state in India by geographical area?



- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: (B)**

#### **Solution**

Rajasthan is the largest state of India by area, covering approximately 3,42,239 sq km – about 10.4% of India's total area. It is home to the Thar Desert, the Aravalli Range, and the famous Rann of Kutch border region. Madhya Pradesh was the largest until Rajasthan was reorganised.

**Q11.** The Rann of Kutch is the world's largest seasonal salt marsh. It is located in which Indian state?

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: (C)**

#### **Solution**

The Rann of Kutch is a vast salt marsh in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Covering about 30,000 sq km, it is submerged in seawater during the monsoon and dries into a flat white salt desert in winter. The Rann Utsav (festival) held here is a major tourist attraction.



**Section C: Civics and Constitution**

**Q12.** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called one article of the Indian Constitution the “heart and soul of the Constitution.” Which article was he referring to?

- (A) Article 19 (Freedom of Speech)
- (B) Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies)
- (C) Article 21 (Right to Life)
- (D) Article 14 (Right to Equality)

**Answer: (B)**

**Solution**

Dr. Ambedkar called Article 32 the “heart and soul of the Constitution” because it gives every citizen the right to directly approach the Supreme Court to enforce Fundamental Rights. Without this right, all other rights would be meaningless. It empowers the Court to issue writs such as Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, and Quo Warranto.

**Q13.** The writ of *Habeas Corpus*, which can be issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to protect personal liberty, literally means:

- (A) You shall have the body
- (B) We command
- (C) By what authority
- (D) To forbid

**Answer: (A)**

**Solution**

*Habeas Corpus* is a Latin phrase meaning “you shall have the body.” Through this writ, a court orders the authority detaining a person to produce them before the court and justify the detention. It is a key safeguard against arbitrary or illegal imprisonment and is one of the five writs available under Article 32 and Article 226.



**Q14.** Who presides over the sessions of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), the upper house of the Indian Parliament?

- (A) Vice President of India
- (B) President of India
- (C) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (D) Prime Minister of India

**Answer: (A)**

### Solution

The Vice President of India serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and presides over its sessions. In the absence of the Vice President, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides. This is distinct from the Lok Sabha, which is presided over by the Speaker.

**Q15.** The power of the Supreme Court of India to examine whether laws passed by Parliament conform to the Constitution, and to strike them down if they do not, is called:

- (A) Appellate jurisdiction
- (B) Judicial review
- (C) Advisory jurisdiction
- (D) Original jurisdiction

**Answer: (B)**

### Solution

Judicial review is the power of the courts to review the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. In India, the Supreme Court and High Courts can declare any law void if it violates the Constitution. This power flows from Articles 13, 32, and 226, and makes the judiciary a guardian of the Constitution.





**Q16.** The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), which investigates complaints of discrimination and advises the government on safeguards for SC communities, is established under which article of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Article 15
- (B) Article 17
- (C) Article 335
- (D) Article 338

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

Article 338 of the Indian Constitution provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. The Commission investigates all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards for Scheduled Castes, reports to the President, and makes recommendations. Article 338A similarly provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

## Section D: Current Events and Famous Personalities

**Q17.** BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies that expanded its membership in 2023. Which of the following countries was an **original** founding member of BRIC (before South Africa joined)?

- (A) Saudi Arabia
- (B) South Africa
- (C) India
- (D) Indonesia

**Answer: (C)**

### Solution

BRIC was originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, and China in 2009 (concept coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001). South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS. In 2023, BRICS invited six new members – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and



Argentina – as part of its expansion drive. India is thus an original founding member.

**Q18.** The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a major infrastructure and trade route initiative, was announced at which international summit in 2023?

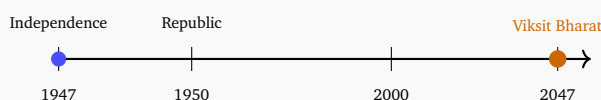
- (A) G20 Summit in New Delhi, India
- (B) G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan
- (C) ASEAN Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia
- (D) UN General Assembly in New York, USA

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was announced at the G20 Leaders' Summit held in New Delhi in September 2023, under India's G20 presidency. It aims to create a railway and shipping corridor linking India to the Gulf states and onward to Europe, promoting trade and connectivity as an alternative to traditional routes.

**Q19.** India's "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision aims to transform India into a fully developed nation by 2047. Why is the year 2047 significant?



- (A) It marks 75 years of the Indian Constitution
- (B) It marks 100 years of Indian independence
- (C) It marks 50 years of India's economic reforms
- (D) It marks 60 years of India's space programme

**Answer:** (B)

### Solution

The year 2047 marks the centenary (100th anniversary) of India's independence from British rule on 15 August 1947. The "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) vision sets tar-



gets across sectors such as economy, infrastructure, education, and health so that India emerges as a fully developed nation by its 100th Independence Day.

**Q20.** As part of India's semiconductor mission to reduce dependence on chip imports, India's first major semiconductor fabrication plant was planned to be set up in which state?

- (A) Maharashtra
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Gujarat

**Answer: (D)**

### Solution

Tata Electronics announced India's first semiconductor fabrication plant at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) in Gujarat. The plant, part of a joint venture with Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) of Taiwan, is a major step towards building a domestic semiconductor ecosystem and reducing import dependence.

## Section E: Environment and Society

**Q21.** The Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) is an endangered subspecies. In India, it is found primarily in:

- (A) Arunachal Pradesh
- (B) Uttarakhand
- (C) Jammu and Kashmir (including Ladakh)
- (D) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: (C)**

### Solution

The Himalayan brown bear is mainly found in the high-altitude alpine zones of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, particularly in the Deosai National Park. It is listed as a vulnerable species. Loss of habitat and human-wildlife conflict are the primary threats to its survival in India.



**Q22.** Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan is India's largest inland saltwater lake. Every winter it attracts large flocks of which migratory bird, making it one of the finest bird-watching sites in the country?

- (A) Flamingo
- (B) Siberian crane
- (C) Great Indian Bustard
- (D) Bar-headed goose

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

Sambhar Lake is renowned for its huge winter gatherings of flamingos – both Greater and Lesser flamingos – which feed on the algae and brine shrimps thriving in the saline waters. The lake was declared a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 1990. It is also an important breeding ground for several waterbirds.

**Q23.** The Government of India launched the flagship programme “Namami Gange” with the primary objective of:

- (A) Cleaning and rejuvenating the Ganga river
- (B) Building new hydroelectric dams on the Ganga
- (C) Developing river ports along the Ganga for trade
- (D) Linking the Ganga to peninsular rivers

**Answer:** (A)

### Solution

The Namami Gange Programme, launched in 2014 with a budget of over **Rs 20,000 crore**, aims to achieve the dual objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga. Key activities include sewage treatment, river-front development, afforestation, and promoting the biodiversity of the Ganga basin.



**Q24.** Waste can be classified as biodegradable (broken down by micro-organisms) or non-biodegradable (persists in the environment). Which of the following is an example of **non-biodegradable** waste?

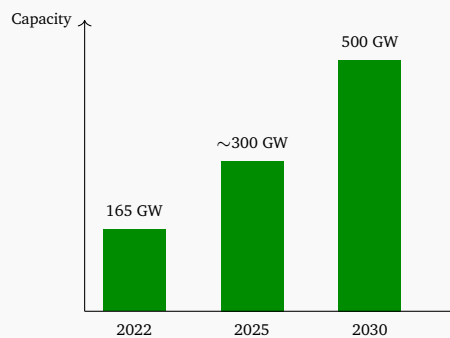
- (A) Vegetable peels
- (B) Dried leaves
- (C) Plastic bottles
- (D) Food scraps

**Answer:** (C)

### Solution

Plastic bottles are non-biodegradable – they can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, breaking into harmful micro-plastics. Vegetable peels, dried leaves, and food scraps are biodegradable; they decompose naturally and can be converted into compost. Proper segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste is the first step in effective waste management.

**Q25.** India has committed to an ambitious renewable energy expansion programme. What is India's target for total installed renewable energy capacity by the year 2030?



- (A) 250 GW
- (B) 300 GW
- (C) 450 GW
- (D) 500 GW

**Answer:** (D)



**Solution**

India has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. This includes solar, wind, hydro, and other clean energy sources. India also aims to meet 50% of its energy requirements from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

**Answer Key**

| Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1  | C   | 2  | D   | 3  | C   | 4  | D   | 5  | A   |
| 6  | B   | 7  | A   | 8  | B   | 9  | D   | 10 | B   |
| 11 | C   | 12 | B   | 13 | A   | 14 | A   | 15 | B   |
| 16 | D   | 17 | C   | 18 | A   | 19 | B   | 20 | D   |
| 21 | C   | 22 | A   | 23 | A   | 24 | C   | 25 | D   |

